in education, that the community had yet to realise the value and importance of education which alone would raise their social and political status and that the community had not yet produced many qualified men. The Member observed that a rigid adherence to the rules regarding the qualifications for entertainment in the public service should not be insisted on in the case of applicants from his community and prayed that the educational concessions granted to the Ezhavas and Mahomedans might be extended to his community also. The Member also prayed :—

(1) that a scholarship might be given to qualified students of the community to prosecute their studies on professional lines outside Travancore;

(2) that the several young men of the community, styled non-matriculates, who were able to work in the different departments in such subordinate positions as maistries in the P. W. department, copyists and volunteers in the Courts and Cutcherries, petty officers in the Excise department and head constables in the Police department, might be encouraged by being appointed to suitable posts; and

(3) that orders might be issued to all heads of departments to give preference to the Catholic applicants of South Travancore in the matter of appointments in the lower ranks of the State service.

Dewan's reply.—I have already told you in my opening Address that it is the aim of Government to secure a fair representation of all communities in the public service.

138. Inadequate entertainment of Nairs in the Public Service of the State.

Mr. V. Ramakrishna Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhittura) said that from the third session of the Assembly, the requests of individual communities for entertainment in increased numbers in the public service of persons belonging to their own sect or class began to be made in the shape of representations through their Members. Including the last session, 80 Members had spoken on the subject, consisting of 34 Christians, 28 Ezhavas, 10 Mahomedans, 2 Malayala Brahmins, 4 members of the depressed classes, 1 Kanian and 1 Nair. It was therefore clear that out of 80 members, only one Nair member took up the subject pertaining to his community, and even that representation was made only at the fourteenth session of the Assembly. If the Nairs were not clamorous in their demands in the past, their dignified reticence was due not to their contentment but to their unbounded faith in the good sense and generosity of Government. Now the community realised the risk of their silence, and they were driven to the necessity of making themselves heard. The representations of individual communities for the bestowal of an increased number of appointments on the men of their community had the desired effect, and a greater number of members from such communities were appointed in the higher ranks of the public service. The Nairs who shed their blood and sacrificed their wealth for their country and their sovereign, who were mainly responsible for the consolidation of the several petty States and Chieftancies into modern Travancore in the times of that great warrior King Martanda Varma Maha Raja and His successor, Rama Varma Maha Raja, better known as Dharmaraja, and who were spontaneously given dignities and privileges and positions of trust and honor in the administrative machinery of the Government for their loyal and meritorious services, had now become a neglected factor, and they were very sparsely represented in the higher ranks of almost all the departments of the State. The Member then gave statistics of the appointments in the public service on Rs. 100 and above and the number of posts held by Nairs and other communities. He referred to the free entertainment of foreigners in the service of the State which began from the time of Dewan Sir T. Madhava Row on the ground that a knowledge of English was essential for the administration of the country and that the natives of the country did not know that language, and he described how that step was strongly condemned by the press and the platform and by the then Madras Government, how eventually such foreign importation led to the presentation of a monster memorial to His Highness the Maha Raja about 30 years ago urging the appointment of natives of the country to appointments within the State, and how keenly the people of the country

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became alive to the seriousness of the situation and began to study English in right earnest. Since then English education had rapidly spread in the country and almost all communities could be considered literate at the present day. The Nairs who took up the lead in the agitation referred to above, were left behind by their brother communities who in recent years clamoured for appointments for themselves and got redress for their grievances. The Member complained that the Government were not dealing with the Nairs in a liberal and equitable spirit. He did not want to give preferment to members of his community at the sacrifice of efficiency. He was sure that if efficiency, merit and qualifications were taken as the guiding factors in making appointments, then his community's cause was safe, for in respect of them the Nair community was second to none. That the grievances complained of were legitimate and well founded would be amply evident from the fact that excluding the Dewan and his Private Secretary, out of a total number of 638 gazetted appointments in the State with a salary of Rs. 100 and above, only 138 posts were held by Nairs, as against 238 Brahmins, 177 Christians, 59 other Hindus, 23 Europeans and 3 Mahomedans. The above would show how unfair was the distribution of public appointments and what inequitable proportion the number of appointments held by Nairs bore to the total number. The Member asserted that Government appointments were distributed inequitably amongst the Nairs, other communities in the State and foreigners without due regard to the importance of each in the construction and consolidation of the State. He emphasised the importance of the principle of equitable distribution of public appointments, care being taken that no one class or community preponderated to the prejudice of the others. Taking department after department the Member attempted to prove that other communities were given greater concessions and appointments at the cost of Nairs. A comparison was then made of the number of Nair officers in the higher ranks of the Judicial department *viz.* in the grades of Munsiffs and Judges in the year 1089 when Sir P. Rajagopalachari retired from the Dewanship of the State and in the present year, and the Member observed that with the increase in the number of appointments in the above grades the number of offices held by members of communities other than Nairs also increased, while the number of Nairs showed a decrease. He then gave specific instances where the High Court ignored the claims of certain senior Nair Vakils for the post of Munsiff and bestowed the appointment on junior non-Nair Vakils. In regard to the Public Works Department, the Member asserted that the representation of Nairs in the higher ranks of that department was worse, in spite of the fact that there were several highly qualified Nairs eminently fitted to occupy high offices in that department.

Turning to the Revenue department, the Member gave comparative figures for 1089 and 1096, and observed that the Nair officers in the Revenue and Magisterial departments were decreasing in number. In the Member's opinion, the same was the case in the Secretariat and Account Offices. The Member next pointed out that the treatment accorded to Nair subordinates by the present Excise Commissioner and the Dewan Peishkar, Trivandrum, was far from being satisfactory. He emphasised the necessity of calling for lists of appointments made by heads of departments and of scrutinising them carefully in the Secretariat. He requested in particular to call for the establishment lists of the offices of the Director of Public Instruction, the Inspector of Secondary Schools, the Sanitary Commissioner, and the Dewan Peishkar, Trivandrum, with information regarding the dates of new appointments. Then the Government would be convinced of the necessity of such a representation from Nairs and would be forced to take immediate action. In conclusion, the Member prayed that Government might be pleased to look into the matter carefully and solve the problem in a fair, sympathetic and satisfactory manner.

Mr. K. Gopalan Nair (Member, Municipal Council, Attungal) said that the Nairs were very inadequately represented in the public service, that they had shed their blood for the country and the Royal House in ancient times, that the majority of the recruits from Travancore that served in the recent world war were Nairs,

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that an appreciable portion of the wealth of Nairs had been taken over by Government in the shape of escheated properties and that on account of the fact that Nairs were not encouraged in the public service, the number of Nair pupils attending schools had appreciably gone down in recent years. Then again, the Nairs were very poorly represented in the Secretariat and the Account Office and also in almost every other department in the State. The Member quoted statistics of gazetted officers in the various departments and observed that the Nairs were but poorly represented in every department of the public service. He also quoted certain specific instances where the claims of deserving Nairs were overlooked by Government. The Member observed in particular that the treatment accorded to Nair public servants by certain District Officers, was very unsatisfactory. In conclusion, the Member prayed that the Government be pleased to look into the whole question carefully and redress the grievances set forth by him. He also urged on the attention of Government the necessity for nominating one or two members of the Nair community to represent their interests in the Assembly as was done in the case of the Christians, Ezhavas and Mahomedans.

Mr. Krishnan Madhavan (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) said that he had nothing to add to what had been said on the subject by the previous speakers.

Mr. Padmanabha Pillai Krishna Pillai (Member, Chengannur Taluk) also agreed with what the previous Members had stated and added that he fully endorsed their views and observations.

Dewan's reply.—I do not think that there is any difference of opinion between the Government and the Members who spoke on the subject in regard to the principles that should guide Government in the matter of securing representation of the various communities in the public service. Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai who spoke first on the subject conceded that there should be equality of opportunities for all, and that merit and efficiency and the educational progress of the community should be recognised as also its relative importance in the polity of the State. But it must be remembered that inequality of representation in the public service is a thing that may be due to causes which are historical and which cannot be removed in an instant. It is the aim of Government to give equal opportunities in proportion to the importance and the educational fitness and attainments of the various communities. I do not profess to say that there is absolute equality now. No human system is perfect. If specific inequalities are brought to the notice of Government, then it will be the steady aim of the Government to remove them. I do not think that I need say anything more. Public discussion of merits or demerits of individual officers is a matter to be deprecated. As representing Government, I may confidently say that in dealing with the claims of individual officers Government are actuated by the best of intentions.

I recognise the importance of Mr. Gopalan Nair's suggestion that one or two members of the Nair community should be nominated to the Assembly in view to represent questions affecting the community as a whole, and it will receive consideration.

139. Desirability of confining all appointments in the State service to Travancoreans.

Mr. Krishnan Madhavan (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) dwelt at length on the desirability of confining all appointments in the State service to Travancoreans. Though that question had become a common subject of discussion in the press and on the platform for the past so many years, it was a matter for regret that nothing had as yet been done to safeguard the interests of the sons of the soil in the matter of appointment in the State service. It had been the practice, the Member said, from the time of Sir T. Madhava Rao onwards to bring in the relations and friends of the Dewans and to appoint them to responsible posts in the State service. The Member referred to the late Mr. Shangrasubbier who was so good as to appoint only Travancoreans to responsible posts in the public service. He also incidentally referred to the memorial which set forth the disapproval of the Travancoreans regarding the importation of foreigners into the State service, signed by ten thousand

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